2. All the porters have been paid their wages for the period of their employment. Payment in respect of porters who had deserted has been deposited with the treasury.

3. A compensation of Rupees two lakhs for the killed and Rupees 80,000/- for the injured is being processed.

Shortfall of Air squadrons

1392. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Asian Age dated 18th November, 1999 captioned 'IAF gives up Rs. 1500 crore due to Ministry's indecision';

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken to wipe out the shortfall of air squadrons against the sanctioned strength of the Indian Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An amount only of Rs. 98.73 crore remained unutilised from the IAF Budget in the financial year 1998-99. The squadron strength of the IAF is adequate with the induction of new SU-30 aircraft.

Government are aware of the requirements of the IAF and are taking all necessary steps to meet them.

Development of High-Tech Surveillance Technology in Kargil

1393. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to enhanced threat perception, especially in Kargil sector, Government are thinking of deploying hi-tech satellite and aerial surveillance technology to detect enemy presence during winter-season;

(b) if so, whether the cost factor involving acquisition of surveillance technology and building the necessary infrastructure